



On the Water

Volume 6, Issue 9

September 2004

Twin Cities Chapter Wins 2004 Chapter Challenge (TRIVIA CONTEST)

from Juris Ozols

Hey, we did it! We knew Bill Binkelman's favorite bait and the Lindner Brother's first boat. We knew what the August month of the 2004 MI calendar was about. We identified most of the ten "Mystery Lures." We knew a bunch of other very trivial fishing stuff. And we beat teams from thirteen other chapters to win the coveted...

Well, we got fifteen bucks for winning the trivia contest on Thursday night. We matched that from our own pockets and donated it back as a free membership to Muskies Inc. for somebody. And back to chasing muskies. Sic transit gloria mundi.

So how about those muskies? Lots, and I mean lots, of muskies at the Chapter Challenge this year. Some 101 participants from fourteen chapters brought in 121 of the elusive critters. One of the two Fargo-Moorhead teams got 21 of them, winning the Challenge with 239 points, a record. Second place went to First Wisconsin with one point less. (But neither of those two teams did anything at all in the Thursday night trivia contest.)

And our own Twin Cities teams? We had three entered this year, and all three teams actually caught fish. Team #1 consisted of Steve Hedensten and sons James and Andrew. James got one 35-1/2 inch fish, but the Hedensten team also had some remarkable stories about monster fish seen but not caught.

Team # 2 – Matt Olson, Dave



JT Doebler proudly showing this bass that will earn him an award at the annual Awards Banquet/ Winter Picnic. Thanks to dad, Todd, for the photo.

Weyland, Paul Mudge, Danny Mudge, Larry Maronick and yours truly did a bit better. Larry got a 37 incher on the first day and Danny got a 31 incher. The rest of us "pre-released" without troubling the fish with the catching business.

Then Team # 3 – Terrie DuBe', Greg Pirritano, and Tom and Lois Harvey – were the stars for us. Terrie got a 39-1/2 and a 31-1/2, and Greg contributed a 30-1/2 plus some bonus big Northerns.

I'm not sure where we finished in the standings, but it wasn't first and it wasn't last (some teams were skunked). So we had to be content with winning the trivia contest and leaving the muskie stuff to the other folks. Maybe next year? We've been known to win this thing, after all.

We'll be back, and for sure I will. This was my first year at the Challenge, and I enjoyed it enormously. I fished with Matt Olson, and once I figured out

how to fish sitting down so my back didn't break, we had a lot of fun out there. I got to meet a lot of people who were just names before, and that's always fun too.

But really, as so often for me, Lake of the Woods was the best part. Canada: that magnificent, wide open wilderness, and a different world. I could go on at great length about the blue skies and the pine-scented air, but that will have to wait for another month; I've got that story in my head and you'll be reading it.

The South Side Muskie Hawks did an excellent job of running the 2004 event, and Red Wing Lodge was a great host as always! Plan to go next year. We have our trivial honor to defend, and we have to do better with the muskies!

From Our President

There are some folks that are due a thank you from all of us. First of all, our speaker for the month of July, Matt Thompson, donated his fee back to the club. Thank you, Matt, for the generous gesture and contribution.

August was the month for our summer picnic and I want to thank all those who showed up for this annual event and thank you to those who brought something to share with the rest of us. A special thanks to Tom Lund for handling the grilling of the burgers and brats. Tom slaved over the grill for most of the time he was there. Also, thanks to Eric Schultz for taking on the grocery-shopping duties for the picnic. Turnout for the picnic was outstanding, especially when you factor in the weather, which wasn't the best.

I need to correct some information that appeared in the August issue of MUSKIE magazine. It was stated that there is a chapter outing to Lake Vermilion on October 16th through the 23rd. That information isn't quite right. There will actually be two weekends to Vermilion that month. Vermilion Dam Lodge will host the first on the 7th-10th. This 4-day event is a casual muskie-fishing weekend featuring Larry Ramsell and John Dettloff, two old-time muskie guys who will be sharing stories and history about muskie fishing. Saturday of this event will be dedicated to fishing with vintage rods, reels, and lures. The biggest fish of the day on

vintage tackle will win a free stay at Vermilion Dam Lodge.

The second outing to Vermillion will be a chapter outing on October 15th through the 17th at the same resort. So far, we have 9 people signed up for this weekend and if it is anything like last year it will be a great time. The 15th-17th are the targeted days for the outing but there is room available at the resort if you would like to come earlier or stay later. Contact me if you have any questions about these outings. 612-861-8930.

Attention board members, we will resume our regular meeting schedule starting September 7th – same place same time. Spread the word.

Finally don't forget the Frank Schnieder Jr. International Muskie Tournament on September 10th, 11th & 12th. This is our biggest fund-raising event of the year. If you've never participated in the tournament, now is a good time to start. If you have participated, but not for a while, we would like to see you out there again. The tournament is a great traditional and social event for families as well as the hard-core. Remember, in muskie tournaments the fish is the equalizer. They humble most of us and reward a few – everyone has a chance.

Come to meetings; share your stories and ideas.

Joe DeMars

2004 Frank Schneider, Jr. International Tournament

The Twin Cities Chapter 37th Annual Frank Schneider Jr. International Muskie Tournament will take place September 10th, 11th, and 12th on lakes in the Walker, Cass Lake, Bemidji, and Longville areas.

The Grand Prize this year is a Ranger 618VS Fisherman, with a 125 hp Mercury and Minn kota trolling motor, and a one-week stay at Birch Villa Resort on Cass Lake. The Grand Prize will be awarded at the Sunday Banquet in Walker City Park by draw from the names of every angler who

registers a fish in the tournament.

Entry fees are \$60.00 for an adult ticket and \$30.00 for a junior. Tickets are on sale until 9:00 pm on Thursday September 9 at Reed's Sporting Goods in Walker, and Jerry's One Stop in Longville. No tickets will be sold after 9:00 pm on Thursday, September 9.

Every contestant participating in the tournament must wear their tournament hat while fishing. Tournament hats can be picked up on Thursday, September 9, at Reed's Sporting Goods or Jerry's One Stop in Longville.

This is not a team event. Each individual who catches a fish, enters the fish for him/her self. The fish must be witnessed, but the witness doesn't have to be a boat partner.

The Awards Banquet will be held

on Sunday, September 12 at approximately 1:00 pm. Prizes for the top ten places, top juniors and top northern will be awarded. A drawing of all those who witnessed fish will be held and there will be lots of door prizes for those who may not have made the top ten. And, of course, the drawing from all persons who caught and registered a muskie, for the Grand Prize boat, motor, trailer, resort stay package.

Participating in the International Tournament is an excellent way to support our chapter. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. If you have fished this tournament before, you already know how much fun it can be. We hope to see you there. It will be a great time.



Rod Guthier with Paul Hartman and the three nice Northerns they caught. Two went back in the water, one became shore lunch.

Capable Partners 2004 – Going on a Decade

from Juris Ozols

I was really looking forward to my annual tradition – I just love that classic picture I take every year of Stan Koich on the dock, big grin on his bearded face, arms spread out to show how big next year's fish is going to be. Well, Stan couldn't make it this year, so it really will have to be next year for him.

However, this year our chapter did take nine of the Capable Partners folks out in June on Lake Independence. Such regulars as Mike Hanson and Rod Guthier were there, although Mike was skunked. Rod went out with Paul Hartman and caught a couple of nice Northerns and a huge bass. (Neither one of them disturbed the Muskies though.)

There were the usual stories. Mark Sewald's boat raised three Muskies, including one very frisky one that just couldn't quite get hooked. Wayne Klemz took the Anderson kids – Natalie and Nicholas – along with father Carl out for some panfish. They had a Muskie come up and make a ferocious attack on a bluegill just as Nicholas was lifting it up out of the water. And we even had one into the net, a 43-incher that "Lucky" Libby Hoene brought in.

But the best part – for the ninth year now, we hosted those grand folks from Capable Partners, and we just had a grand time, with or without Muskies. The weather was beautiful, the lake peaceful, and the "shore lunch" great. You couldn't ask for a more relaxing, lazy summer day.

Okay, I know you'd be disappointed if I didn't end my report in the usual way – urging you to come out next year. And so I will. Come out. Like I've said many times before, this is the best of Muskies Inc.

To all of our friends and family at Muskies Inc:

Words seem to fail me at the moment, but I will do my best to convey Mary's and my gratitude for all of the love and support that we received over the last year and a half as we battled her cancer and prepared ourselves for her impending death.

As Mary faced her cancer and the end of her life her biggest concern wasn't for herself, but for me. When she was told that her tumor was malignant she turned to me and said, "How are you ever go to survive this?" As time went by and the word of her illness spread amongst our friends and family, she came to realize the love and support that was with us and that we didn't have to face this ordeal alone. Often, Mary would say to me, "Thank God for Muskies Inc. I know that when I'm gone there will be good people who care that will be there to help you pick up the pieces and get on with your life. It's one less thing I have to worry about." All of you helped ease her mind and her burden and for that, there aren't words enough to describe my appreciation for all that you have done for us together and me alone now that she is gone.

I would like to thank Juris Ozols for his beautiful and eloquent eulogy that was published in the August newsletter. That newsletter is a keepsake that I will treasure the rest of my life. Juris, you have a way with words. Thank You!

I have used the word "family" in my remarks and I want to comment on that a little, if I may. Granted, we are a group of people from diverse paths in life, with many differences amongst us. But we are united by our interest in muskies and muskie fishing. It's this common ground that brings us together and provides the framework for us to build friendships that, in time, becomes an extended family. I have no children and have lost my wife and parents, but I'm not alone in this world because I have my family at Muskies Inc. We may fight and disagree over many issues surrounding the muskie resource, but when trouble comes to one of us, we pull together and help each other out, and that is the true meaning of family. When Jeff Woodruff and Smokey Swenson had health problems, Muskies Inc. was there to help. We may think of ourselves as only a fishing club but the wonderful people who make up this organization make it so much more than that. We are all the better for it.

Lastly I want to remind everyone to treasure each and every cast, follow and fish. It is these experiences that make life rich and rewarding and become the memories that we will cherish for a lifetime. Life is indeed too short and we can never be sure when we will make our last cast. Please don't take them for granted.

On behalf of Mary and myself; Thank You to all for your love.

Paul Villnow

Members Only Contest

from Elaine Randolph, Contest Chair

GOOD LUCK to everyone fishing the International Tournament from September 10-12. When you catch the winning fish, don't forget to fill out the Annual Members Only Fishing Contest Entry Blank and mail it to me within 30 days. The forms completed for the tournament stay with the Tournament Chairperson and are not forwarded to me.

Evan Nicolai added to his Junior Division lead with a 39" release on Inguadona on 7/16 and a 42.5" release also on Inguadona on 8/7. Not to be outdone by her big brother, Dallas Nicolai released her very first muskie – a very respectable 44" – on July 30 on Ingudona. Having his picture in last month's "On the Water" holding a very nice bass must have brought JT Doebler some luck. The 6 year old released a 30.5" muskie on Cedar Lake, MN on July 31. Congratulations to all our junior members!

The new leader for August is Tom Harvey with a 52" release on August 2 from Lake of the Woods. Tom caught this fish on a black Bucher Tail. Don Pursch released a 50" and a 51" on Rowan Lake in July.

Terrie DuBe' and Greg Pirritano were members of the Chapter Challenge team and caught so many fish they had to go back to Lake of the

Woods as part of the chapter trip to Red Wing Lodge. Greg released 3 fish the first week and well, if he wasn't so busy taking Terrie's fish off the lure he might have caught more. Terrie released 4 the first week and I don't have her entries for the second week, but I think she had 3 more.

On July 11 fishing the Winnipeg River, Russ Peterson released his first muskie in 9 years – a very nice 44". One hour later he released a 40". WOW! Kurt Hostager released a 47" on White Bear on July 11 using a Bucher Tail. Dean Roll collected 78 points at the Winnipeg River outing in July and from North Star and Mille Lacs.

STANDINGS: (as of 7/15/2004)

JUNIOR'S DIVISION

- 1st Place – Evan Nicolai – 5 fish – 78 points
- 2nd Place – Dallas Nicolai – 1 fish – 18 points
- 3rd Place – James Hedensten – 1 fish – 14 points
- 4th Place – Megan Doebler – 1 fish – 7 points
- 5th Place – Andrew Hedensten – 1 fish – 6 points
- 6th Place – J.T. Doebler – 1 fish – 5 points

WOMEN'S DIVISION

- 1st Place – Dianne Dahl – 3 fish – 39 points
- 1st Place – Terrie DuBe' – 4 fish – 39 points

MEN'S DIVISION

- 1st Place – Dean Roll – 9 fish – 129 points

- 2nd Place – Kevin Clouse – 6 fish - 104 points
- 3rd Place – Shawn Kellett – 7 fish – 101 points
- 4th Place – Phil Groth – 6 fish – 91 points
- 5th Place – Bob Culbertson – 7 fish - 67 points

MASTER'S DIVISION

- 1st Place – Tony Sommerfeld – 10 fish – 143 points
- 2nd Place – Kurt Hostager – 7 fish – 90 points
- 3rd Place – Mark Sewald – 7 fish – 87 points

RELEASE OF THE MONTH

- May – official – no entries greater than 45"
- June – unofficial – Shawn Kellett – 51" – Minnetonka – June 5
- July – unofficial – Greg Randolph – 52" – Eagle Lake, Ontario – July 3
- August – unofficial – Tom Harvey – 52" – Lake of the Woods – August 2

Keep those release forms coming – I love getting interesting mail!

Mail your completed forms to:
Elaine Randolph
1039 Wedgwood Lane N.
Eagan, MN 55123
651-452-1209

Reporting All Fish, Big and Small


PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT: Office/secretarial. Approx. 20 hours per month. \$10/hr. Work at home. Must have computer and internet access. Contact Terrie DuBe' 1-888-710-8286 or secretary@muskiesinc.org.

FOR SALE: 14 ft. AlumaCraft with trailer. 50 hp Merc, tilt & trim, Hummingbird locator. \$2200. Russ Peterson. 612-618-0391.

Classified ads may be submitted by members of the Twin Cities Chapter. Charges are \$5.00 per month per ad. Send ad information and check made out to Muskies, Inc. by the second Friday of each month for insertion into the following month's publication to: Graphic Works, 7125 17th Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423.

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calendar of events

*Muskies Inc. Twin Cities Chapter
General Meetings are held the second
Tuesday of every month at the
Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 West
79th Street, Bloomington, MN (just off
I-494 & Lyndale Ave.) at 7:00 pm.*

SEPTEMBER 10-11-12

37th Annual Frank Schneider,
Jr. International Fishing
Tournament

SEPTEMBER 14

General Meeting. Speaker:
Steve Worrell

OCTOBER 12

General Meeting.

OCTOBER 15-17

Chapter Outing: Vermillion Dam
Lodge.

NOVEMBER 9

General Meeting. Nominations
for Board members accepted.

DECEMBER 14

General Meeting. Elections of
new Board members and
officers.

September 25 Mini-Challenge

Support our chapter in a "Mini-Challenge" with the North Metro chapter. The "Mini-Challenge" will be held 6:00 am to noon on Saturday, September 25 at Lake Independence. Lunch will be provided.

We need lots of representation. If you don't have a partner or a boat, please call Eric Schultz at 651-917-8272 or Brad Coyne at 612-724-6697.

Reminder

SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS from Joe's Sporting Goods, Thorne Bros., or Reed's Sporting Goods. Bring them to the General Meeting and you'll get one free entry in the rod and reel drawing per receipt. Receipts must be dated within 30 days of the meeting.

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next meeting

AUGUST 14

**SPEAKER:
STEVE WORRELL**

Steve is one of the industry's most innovative anglers. He has been in sales and promotions for the fishing industry for over 30 years. He has a track record from Wisconsin to Wabegoon.



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